

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-4, 6-15 and 17-29 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 30-33 are canceled.

Applicants thank Examiner Thompson for the courtesies extended to Applicants' undersigned representative during the September 12, 2006 personal interview. The substance of the interview is set forth below. In particular, and as indicated in the November 17 Office Action, it was agreed that the amendments made in the September 1 Amendment overcome the previous rejections.

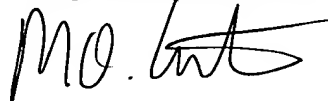
Claims 30-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 30-33.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-4, 6-15 and 17-29.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Mario A. Costantino  
Registration No. 33,565

MAC/ccs

Date: January 12, 2007

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